

Volume 1 Issue 1

January 2005

# *Biomedics for Christ Newsletter*

*Serving the servants for the cause of Christ*

Dr. Ron Garst is a medical missionary now semi-retired. An orthopedic surgeon for 20 years in India, he was asked to go to Bangladesh after their war for independence. He was the lone orthopedist for literally millions of patients in a post war economy. There were multiple traumatic amputees that needed his services. His equipment was a hodge-podge from Europe, Russia, and the United States. Can you imagine trying to configure those units to work with each other?

He was his own OJT biomed tech and is a fascinating man to talk with if you are close to Maryville TN.

Dr. Garst said, (when he found out that our ministry MedEquip Missions repairs equipment using volunteer biomedical technicians) *“What you do is the most needed skill in medical missions in the third world!”*

He speaks the truth. These doctors are heroes doing so much with so little and no back ups when that first unit breaks. The number of biomedics in fulltime missions can be counted on my fingers. There are more biomedics here in Asheville NC. This newsletter is designed to show how valuable your skills are in a suffering world. We will offer opportunities to exercise those skills from home and perhaps abroad for a few of you interested in traveling!

## **What's In this letter?**

How can you serve? (several ways) Do you have to leave home to serve? (you can, but you don't have to!) Will it cost you to serve? (yes – but the blessing and joy that comes will enrich you.) The answers will come as we share the rich and vital experiences of fellow biomedical technicians that have shared their life saving skills in some of the most poverty stricken places in the world.

There is a story from Jim Moore CBET who works for World Medical Missions, the medical arm of Samaritan's Purse in Boone, NC. The improbability of finding the part needed for repair and its appearance in the sands of a garbage pit will leave you believing in miracles. There is another story about a microscope in Ethiopia.

We are a Christian organization using skills God has given us to serve some amazing people like Dr. Garst mentioned in Opening Shot. With servant's hearts they give up wealth and health to serve in difficult places. We will often highlight such ministries.

There will be a little humor or pithy saying inserted occasionally. Feel free to contribute. A devotional centered on a portion of Scripture will be in each issue. Those of you who preach or teach may want to contribute here as well.

## **Rolls Royce in Ethiopia**

Dr. Mary Vanderkooi, (author of *Village Medical Manual, a Layman's Guide o Healthcare in Developing Countries*) when asked about her greatest need—a microscope she could use in the villages she serves in Ethiopia. Sometimes depending on the rains they are four hours away or they

Rolls Royce – Cont.

could be a week away due to flooding. There is no electricity for a light source so she asked for a mirror. This would allow her to confirm diagnosis on the spot.

I gave these details to a friend, Ed Bos co founder of Worldwide Lab Improvement, Inc. (they will be highlighted in a couple of months) They rigged up a unit with a battery operated light source, two batteries, charger and heavy duty travel case appropriate for Dr. Vanderkooi's situation.

One can see the joy in this usually stoic doctor's thank you note. She said, "I was expecting an Old Grey Mare and I got a Rolls Royce instead!"

It is typical for missionaries to get the cast off, beat up equipment and they often do miraculous things with what we consider garbage. You can feel her joy can't you? That joy is yours to share by being part of medical missions who need the technical skills biomedical technicians have to offer. It is a challenge to use your wits to solve the unique needs in developing countries.

Oh Yes! There is one final note in this story. Dr. Vanderkooi wrote a follow up about 30 days after she had this unit in the field. She gave direct credit to this microscope and the saving of two lives. It was a direct answer to one of her many prayers.

**EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD; ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD.**

**WILLIAM CAREY**

ON A LESS SERIOUS NOTE:



"We are not ready for an unforeseen event that may or may not occur."

Dan Quayle

I like Dan Quayle. If you have ever heard him talk you know he is brighter than some of the unfortunate quotes for which he is known. I keep this one and share it with y'all because it defines Mondays in my office.

Jim Loeffler's response to editor's attempt at humor

## **Biomed Digs in the Sands of Sahara**

Last year after arriving at Galmi Hospital in the southeastern desert of Niger, I proceeded to repair some equipment in the laboratory of this small missionary hospital. A power supply had failed in a QBC analyzer and it needed a capacitor of the specific value of .22 mfd. at 40 volts. My tools and spare parts cases had gotten caught up in the new security filtering taking place in all the world's airports since 9/11, so they were not going to arrive until the next plane from Paris *3 days later*.

Biomed Digs – Cont.

I asked the maintenance person taking me around if there were any spare parts on the compound. He told me they had an area out behind the shop where they threw old tires, refrigerators, and broken cabinets. I was welcome to look but no electrical stuff was there that he knew of.

We unlocked the gate protecting the junkyard and I strolled through several pickup loads of discarded cabinets. I noticed on the sand a broken circuit board about a foot long. Mounted on the end of a string of chips was an orange capacitor, .22 mfd at 40 volts. The board was destroyed but the capacitor looked new baking in the sun. Phillip the maintenance man asked me if it was a good part. I assured him that under the circumstances, there was no other possibility.

I changed the capacitor in the QBC and an hour later they were running tests. The odds in this scenario are astronomical.

Jim Moore  
Biomedical Support  
Samaritan's Purse

## Editor's note

Niger is 98% Muslim nation with about 12 million souls. 3/4 of the country is in the Sahara Desert. It is hard living in one of the most impoverished nations in the world. Galmi hospital is one of the few places in Niger that the nationals see Christians in action.

Another Quote:

**"I see now that the repair of equipment is the missing link in providing quality medical care in the developing world."**

**Woody Woodson—Vine International**

Woody said this during the 'debriefing' after a whirlwind mission trip. Rick Wood CBET from Michigan and Dennis McCutcheon repaired equipment at several Christian hospitals and clinics in Guatemala October 2004. You can check Vine International out at: [www.vineinternational.org](http://www.vineinternational.org) Vine is a "pipeline" for medical supplies and equipment for the missionaries in Guatemala, vitamins and support for several orphanages.

## Bezaleel—God's Craftsman, part one (of three)

*Exodus 35:30-35 (ASV) (30)And Moses said to the children of Israel, "See the LORD hath called by name Bezaleel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. (31) And He hath filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship...(34)And he hath put in his heart that he may teach, both he and Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. (35)Them hath He filled with wisdom of heart,, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the skillful workmen, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, an of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that devise curious work."*

Moses received the blueprints from God to build the tabernacle, but who was to be entrusted with the work? This was to be an awesome project. The nomadic temple of a nomadic people that would last almost 400 years until Solomon builds the temple in Jerusalem. A portable tent that would be broken down and set up hundreds of times, amazing that it would last that long (if I get 10 years out of a tent I am impressed). The furniture likely lasted much longer and may have been used in the temple of Solomon. Truly amazing.

Obviously God had His Hand in making this tent last, but He also chose the men to lead the teams and

Bezaleel – Cont.

do the work of His design. Are you chosen to get more directly involved in the work of God as was Bezaleel? He was an excellent Craftsman:

A.) CALLED by God! V.30 First Bezaleel was called by name which means ‘in the shadow of God’, or under His wing, in His protection. Son of Uri which means ‘My light’ (shortened form of Uriah “Light of God”)... grandson of Hur meaning ‘freedom’. Hur was the husband of Miriam sister to Moses freed from slavery at the first Passover in Egypt. His name is prophetic of the exodus of the Jews and it is likely that all three of these generations were alive to see the tabernacle built. Freedom from slavery to Egypt/sin...my light is the LORD... under the shadow of God...sounds like God had chosen Bezaleel awhile back.

Bezaleel was not free to claim glory for himself. His degree did not get him the job, rather it was the call and the gifting (v.31)of God. God Chooses. God Equips. God gets the Glory!

*Psa 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Psa 17:8 Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shade of thy wings.*

To be in the shadow of God is a place of fellowship, communion, safety and freedom. I have seen this in Paraguay when a hen would call her brood to herself, cover them and offer her back to the dogs, giving her life that her chicks might live.

As we will see Bezaleel was called to three purposes (the other two in coming letters). The first and foremost purpose is the glorification of God. Our work and deeds, the thing we think of sometimes as drudgery is to be done and can be done to the glory of God. God says I freed your granddad so you would be here building My house. I enlightened your dad to the things of God so you would grow up knowing Me, and now I take you child under My Wing/My Arm so you will have the pleasure of doing this great and lasting work. The tabernacle is a type and picture of Messiah to come and you will do it right Bezaleel!

SO WHAT? You ask. You are a biomed tech - is it merely a job or an adventure (that’s the Army isn’t it?) Is it a job or a calling? My God is not just a God on Sunday morning, but the God of our days, all of them. We are called to glorify God in ALL we do, so glorify God by being a craftsman at your calling. Do what we do well, do it in submission to those in authority over us so that others can see the effect of God in our lives. Dualism is needing One God on Sunday and another god on Monday. Dualism makes God puke by the way (Rev. 3:16). SO! can we glorify God by doing what we do each day? Yes, absolutely yes.

*Dualism is needing One God on Sunday and another god on Monday!*

### **The Administrative Trash**

WANT OFF THE LIST: Simply e-mail me with a kind, brief note at [dmccutcheon@helpsintl.com](mailto:dmccutcheon@helpsintl.com) and it will be done.

Permission is granted to share the stories in part or as a whole with biomedical technicians, work, church, at lunch, in the bathroom, etc.

Be “Head Hunters!” Talk this up with your peers. E-mail with any additional new contacts that are interested in getting this newsletter.

MISSIONS EXPERIENCED BIOMEDS—I need your stories to share. You know the ones ladies and gentlemen. Those stories where God made you look good! (and we know you ain’t HA! ) God gets the glory in that story!

## **About Our Organization**

**Biomedes for Christ** at this point Jan. 2005 is not officially recognized by any governing body. We do not have officers, dues, a formal mission statement, etc. I believe we have great potential to generate a pool of men and women with BIG hearts who want to serve Christ and the body of the church by using their God given talents. I seek your input on how far to take this process. Most of us don't want another meeting, or any other function to attend, unless there is the potential to help others significantly.

I am not aware of any formal organization using the name (if so please let me know before we hurt anyone's feelings). There are Cops for Christ (whom I have communicated with) and Firefighters for Christ. We would be unique in what we have to offer to a very needy group of people.

I am revamping and reprioritizing my ministry, and believe I can give more time to this process if many of you agree with the need. Pray about these things and let us see where God leads us. Do we make the name and organization official? Come up with a mission statement? etc.?

Your brother in Christ,  
Dennis McCutcheon

## ***Biomedes for Christ***

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*Share with other biomed techs particularly those interested in  
missions!*